

8. (Amended) The multi-well membrane filter of claim 1[2,] wherein the support is a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of [includes] polyethylene, acrylic, PTFE, polycarbonate and styrene.

Amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) The multi-well membrane filter of claim 1[2,] wherein the support is an [polymeric material includes] acrylic.

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Amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) The multi-well membrane filter of claim 1[2,] wherein the support is a [polymeric material includes] PTFE.

Amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Amended) The multi-well membrane filter of claim 1[2,] wherein the support is a [polymeric material includes] polycarbonate.

Amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (Amended) The multi-well membrane filter of claim 1[2,] wherein the support is a [polymeric material includes] styrene.

Amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (Amended) The multi-well membrane filter of claim 1[3,] wherein the support and membrane are configured to have at least 384 wells.

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Amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) The multi-well membrane filter of claim 1, wherein the at least two wells have different volumes.

Amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) The multi-well membrane filter of claim[s] 1 [and 14,] wherein the volume of each well is in the range of 50 to 150 microliters.

Amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended)The multi-well membrane filter of claim 1[6,] wherein the volume of each well is in the range of 70 to 130 microliters.

Amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended)The multi-well membrane filter of claim 1[,] wherein the at least two cells have different shapes.

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Add new claims 33-46 as follows:

33.(New) A method of producing a multi-well membrane filter device, comprising the steps of:

selecting a pre-formed individual or continuous support sheet of a predetermined thickness;

selectively forming through holes corresponding to a desired well configuration and in a desired well matrix array into the support sheet by a material removing process;

attaching a filter membrane by a laminating process to one side of the support sheet provided with the through holes.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the pre-formed support sheet is an extruded material.

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35 .(New) The method of claim 33 comprising the step of maintaining the support sheet as continuous web during the steps of forming the through holes and attaching the filter membrane and subsequently cutting the device to a desired size.

36. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the material removing process applied in the step of selectively forming the through holes into the support sheet is one selected from the group consisting of drilling, punching, burning and dissolving.

37. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the laminating process for attaching the filter membrane to the support sheet is one selected from the group consisting of a web converting process, diffusion bonding, adhesive bonding, welding and thermal bonding.

38. (New) The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of making the areas of the filter membrane around the individual through holes impervious to a filtrate, wherein this step is performed after, immediately before or simultaneously with the attaching step.

39. (New) The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of making the areas of the filter membrane around the individual through holes impervious to a filtrate and wherein the step is selected from the group consisting of collapsing pores in the filter membrane, breaking or removing filter membrane, applying a hydrophobic barrier and filling membrane pores with epoxy.

40. (New) The method of claim 33 further comprising a step of laminating an underdrain layer to the outer surface of the filter membrane.

41. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the pre-formed individual or continuous support sheet is selected from the group consisting of glass, metallic materials, ceramic materials, elastomeric materials, coated cellulosic materials and polymeric materials.

42. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the preformed support sheet is a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, acrylic, PTFE, polycarbonate and styrene.

43. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein a volume of the wells defined by the configuration of the through holes and the thickness of the support sheet is in the range of 50 to 150 microliters.

44. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein at least two of the through holes on a filter device have different configurations.

45. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the well array of a filter device comprises at least 96 well.

46. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the well array of the filter device comprises at least 384 wells.